



A
MEMORABLE SPEECH,
IN THE HOVSE OF
COMMONS. 1611.

Master Speaker,

Perceive we are all much troubled, by the
evill successe which we have had in the
great contract concerning Tenures and
Purueiance, after our long trauel & much
time spent therein, and in other causes
of good importance: so as many have
taken occasion thereby to say of us, that
although there was never a more ho-
nourable assembly, in the Commons
house of Parliament, of godly, wise,
and learned men, then at this time, that yet there did ne-
uer lesse fruit appeare of their labour to the world, at any
time before, then now: which fruitlesse labour if it
might be truly imputed unto us, it might worthily grieve
us all: but I hope that in seeking our meanes of redresse,
or reliefe in this case, I shall make it appeare to all, that
will rightly weigh of the things, that if furtherance had
beene given by others, whome it concernes, to our la-
bour and good endeauours, many abuses had beene re-
formed,

formed, and much good done to the Common wealth of England.

But as it is true, which that great wise Lord, who hath the chiefe charge of the treasure of the Realme; said unto us at our last meeting with the honourable Lords of the upper house of Parliament, in the paynted chamber at Westm: touching the great contract, viz. that hee did well perceive, that wee had a great desire to have effected that great contract; that the Kings Maiesty had willingly giuen his assent to the same, and that yet neuertheless it porceeded not, wherein they could not finde the impediment, but that God did not blesse it: so is it likewise true of the rest of our proceedings in Parliament, that God hath not blessed the same with good successe, which troubled me at the first, untill I did further consider of many other parties of the Realme, and many other callings, and societies of the Realme, to whom God hath given as little blessing, as to the Parliament house. For it did appeare plainely to us in this house, upon the treatie and examinations of the grievances of the Church and common wealth, that the Merchants of England, who were a calling of very great use in this Realme, for the wealth, strength, and credit thereof, and as it were the leggs of the common wealth, whereon it goeth, had not received such blessing of late, yea in their merchandizing, as in former times, although they labor asmuch, and adventure asmuch, as in former times they did. And that likewise the clothiers being a trade whereby many thowlands subjects are maintained, although they labor in their calling as much at this time, as ever before they did; doe of late find so little fruit of their labour, as that many of them are decayed, and many of them also haue giuen over that trade to the great hinderance of the Realme.

And also the like is fallen to the Marriners and Shipwrights of this Realme, which number is greatly decay-

ed, and with them the serviceable ships and shipping very much weakened, which threatneth a decay of the walls and strength of the Realme, which by good shipping, and good Marriers is well defended.

And I find also, that God hath not blessed the treasure of the Realme, for it is gone from us, as if God had blown upon it, to turne it out of the land, so as Prince & people want.

And I finde also in the calling of lawyers, that there is not the like increase of their labors, as in times past, except it be some fewe favorites; and I thinke that divers Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses now here present about mee, could say the like of divers sorts of men in there Countreies, Cities, and Burroughs, if they list to speake whereupon I do assuredly thinke, that for some publique sinnes of the land, God hath a quarrell to the land, whereby he doth withdrawe his ordinary blessings, which publique sinnes this great Councell of the Realme ought first to seeke out, and as much as in our power to redress the same, that God being thereby reconciled unto the Land an happy blessing might insue to all the estates thereof, which to effect, you shall see what we for our parts have done to obteyne Gods loving countenance to the land, as a shield, by removing the publicke sinnes thereof, which as a thicke cloud doth keepe from us Gods shining grace.

First we did see, and consider, that the precious name of God, which wee ought to regard more then our lives, is not by the lawes of England so tenderly regarded, and preserved, as the name of all sorts of people in the land: For if some euill wordes be used against the King, it is high treason, for which the offender shall dye. And if some euill wordes bee used against noble men, it is punishable by the statute de Scandalum magnatum. And that for some euill wordes used by any priuate person against another, an action of the case doth lye, at the com-

mon law, to punish the offender, and to recompence the partie wronged. But for abusing the holy name of God, and tearing him in peeces by wicked oathes, there is no punishment by the lawes of the Realme, whereby both men, women, and children increase in that sinne grievously, every day, without punishment or checke: wherefore to prevent that sinne, wee did, at two severall Sessions of Parliament, make two severall bills, which did passe our house of Commons, to be made lawes for punishment of such Offenders.

And to take away that crying sinne which doth most provoke God, and most grieve the subjects, viz. the depriving, disgracing, silencing, disgrading, and imprisoning, such of Gods Messengers (being learned and godly Preachers) as he hath furnished with most heavenly graces to call us to true repentance, for no other cause, but for not conforming themselves otherwise then by subscription limited in the statutes made in the 14. yeare of the late *Queene Elizabeth* of famous memorie, thereby making the lawes of the Church, and common wealth to jarre: which to reforme, we made a law for subscription agreeing to the intent of the foresaid statute, which every wise man will approve, and willingly subscribe unto, whereby much peace, and untiie would grow in the Church and common wealth, and be an occasion, that many subjects might be well taught the meanes of their salvation, who now want sufficient knowledge of the word of God to ground their faith upon.

And to take away another grosse sinne, which is made lawfull by act of Parliament, whereby the land is made guiltie thereof, viz. concerning none residents, and pluralitie of benefices, we did passe a bill in the last Sessions of Parliament, and have another bill concerning that offence ready to passe being twice read, and agreed upon at the Committees, whereby wee abrogate so much of the statute of the 21. yeare of King *Henry* the 8. as did inable
none

non residents, or the taking of more benefices then one with cure of soules, for by the provisions in that Statute, the Kings Chaplaines may have as many benefices, as they can get without stint, and some others may have foure benefices with cure at one time, in severall counties, and some two benefices, and yet bee resident upon none of them, so long as he attendeth upon his Lord, or Master, which is a thing intolerable in a Christian common wealth.

And for that some scandalous Ministers of evill life doe bring a great slander to all the rest, being many godly and learned Preachers, wee did make a good law to remove such scandalous Ministers from their place.

And where by the lawes of God, and the lawes of this Realme the Ecclesiasticall persons should, in their government, use onely the spirituall sword by exhortation, admonition, and excommunication, which are the keyes of the Church to exclude impenitent sinners, and to receive into the Church, the penitent and faithfull persons, and to leave the temporall sword, to the temporall Magistrate, which was alwaies so used in *England* untill the second yeare of King *Henry* the fourth, at which time Popish Prelates, following the example of the man of sinne at Rome, obtained a Statute without the free consent of the Subjects (as is set forth by *M. Foxe*, and in some sort, appeareth by the record of the Tower) by which Statute they got the temporall sword into their hands, which Statute was since, by severall acts of Parliament, made voide with great disgrace, and yet by colour of that temporall authoritie once, by a short space by them used, some Ecclesiasticall persons doe use both swords, to the great grieve, and trouble of the subjects, and with those two swords, they doe also use the oath *ex officio*, which began first in *England*, by that Statute of the second yeare of King *Henry* the fourth, being contrary to the lawes of *England*, and (as I verily thinke) contrary to the lawes of God.

Wherefore wee to reforme those great abuses, made two good lawes, the one to abridge the force of the Ecclesiasticall commission in many points: the other to abrogate, and to take away the power of Ecclesiasticall persons, to minister the oath *ex officio* being a very hateful thing, and unlawfull.

And for that among the Canons, late made by the Clergie of *England* in that Convocation, it was thought, that some of their Canons did extend to charge the bodies, lands, and goods of the subjects of the Realme, further then was lawfull, and meet, wee therefore made a good law to make voide such Canons, as doe charge the bodies, lands, and goods of the subjects, unlesse that the same Canons were confirmed by Parliament.

And as we had care of the Church, so had wee care of the common-wealth, touching impositions laid upon the Subjects goods, and marchandize, and other things, and therefore after long travell taken by us, in searching ancient Records in the Tower of *London*, and in other places, and after great dispute made hereupon, in open House, by many learned Laywers, we found in cleare in our opinion, that impositions laid upon marchandize, or other goods of the subjects of this Realme, by the Kings Majestie, without the free consent of the Subjects in Parliament was not lawfull, and therefore wee did make and passe a bill, by the generall consent of the House of Commons, intended by us all to be a law, thereby to declare that by the lawes of *England*, no imposition could bee lawfully laid upon goods, or marchandize of the subjects of *England*, without the consent of the subjects in Parliament.

And because that many subjects were greatly troubled by purveyance, and cattaking, notwithstanding the good lawes in that behalfe made to restraine the same, a bill was preferred by some member of the House, for reformation of that abuse, at the beginning of the last Session.

of Parliament; which bill, by all likelihood, had long since passed this House of Commons, if the matter of purveyance had not bene comprehended in the great contract, which matter of great contrivance being intended, a new bill concerning purveyance, and cartaking is in my hands, now presently to be delivered into the House to receive such proceeding therein, as shall bee thought meet.

And touching wardship & tenures, because it is thought a heave law, and grievous to the subjects, after the death of the father to have the sonne, and heire within age taken from the mother and kindred, to bee bought and sould, and with the heire also to take all the lands and tenements of the father, that should many times maintaine both the heire and the rest of the children, for the onely benefit of the Gardian: therefore wee made a very large offer to free the land thereof, which we laboured earnestly to effect, but God hath not blessed it, nor brought to good effect any of those good intended lawes above by me mentioned, although we much desired the same, and had done therein as much as pertained to us to do, which if they had bene well effected, and passed as lawes and Statutes, and that all such grievances, concerning the Church and common-wealth as we carefully commended unto his Majestie in writing (whereof the copies doe remaine in this house) had procured such amendment of things, as we expected, it had made *England* so honorable and happie in the government thereof, as ever was Kingdome in this world (as I thinke.) And which when the same shall bee well effected, will (as I thinke) make both King, and subjects more happie, then ever they were. For if all these things so concurred together, as we wished and laboured for, what would wee not give to supply the Kings wants, & to support him in a most Royall and princely state. But *rebus sic stantibus*, as is before

declared, without reformation of those things, which were by us so earnestly fought, wee cannot give much to supply the Kings wants, because wee know no certainty of that which should remaine to us after our gift, so as, in mine opinion, the good proceeding of this Parliament hath not beene hindred by us, which is all I meane to say at this time.

And touching the gift of the lands, which is the gift of the father to the sonne, and the sonne to the father, and the sonne to the mother and kindred, to the daughter and kindred, and with the heirs, it is take all the lands and revenues of the father, the sonne, the daughter, the mother, both the father and the mother, the sonne, the daughter, the mother of the Guardian: therefore we made a new gift.

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The particulars to bee contracted
for, in consideration of two hundred thou-
sand pounds, per annum to bee paid
unto his Majestie.

1. Wardships, and Tenures, with their particular depen-
dances, shall be utterly taken away.
2. The *Maxime*, *N ulum tempus occurrit Regi*; shall
be no longer of any effect.
3. All the Kings patents shall be expounded for the good
of the Patentees and according to the true meaning.
4. No forfeiture shall bee taken by the King, or his pa-
tentee, for nonpayment of rent.
5. Any subject shall pleadd the generall issue (*not
guilty*) upon information of intrusion.
6. All penall lawes, and informations shall be ordered for
the best ease of the subject.
7. All manner purveyance taken by prerogative, cart ta-
king, compositions, and commissions therefore, and *Praemp-
tion* (except of time) shall bee utterly taken away, and no
Clerke of the Market shall set price on any victuall, nor any
other shall doe the same.
8. All presines, and postfines to be due upon alienation by
fine and recovery, shall be taken away.
9. Debts shall be paid to the Subjects before any advan-
tage be taken, by the King, of forfeitures upon outlaries, or
attainders of sellons, or traitors.
10. That clause in the statutes of 34. and 35. of
Henry 8. touching alteration of lawes in Wales shall bee
repealed.
11. Every subject that hath possessed land by the space of
60. yeares where the King, in that time, hath not had
the possession, or profit thereof, by the space of one yeare, shall
bee

bee free from the Kings claim: And if the King, within that space, hath bene seized of any rent out of the same lands, then that rent onely shall remaine to the King.

shall be forgiven of mine sins though he

13. The King shall expresse the cause of demurrer in pleading against any of his subjects.

14. Fees of all courts to be paid by the subjects shall be expressed in a booke in print.

35. All lawes absolute, that are penall, shall be reduced
to one law.

16. No protection against law shall be granted by the King,

17. Any thing doubtfull in any of these articles shall be explained by our selves.

13. Any other matter, which at our next meeting, wee shall
concelut to bee for ease of the subjects, & shall not detract
from the King, in point of souerainty, or profits shall be essen-
tiall in this contract.

shall in this contract.

2. Debtors of the King, of forfeitures upon outlawry, or attainments of felons, or traitors.

10. That clause in the Statute of 24, and 35, of Henry 8. touching alienation of lands in Wales shall be

60. Grants where the King, in that time, had not had the possession or profit thereof, by the space of one year, shall be

*To the Kings most excellent
Majestie.*

Most gracious soveraigne, whereas we your Maies-
ties most humble subiects the commons assem-
bled in Parliament, have received first by message,
and since by speech, from your Maiestie a commandement
of restraint from debating in Parliament, your Maiesties
right of imposing upon your subiectes goods exported,
or imported out of, or into this Realme, yet allowing us
to examine the grievances of these impositions in regard
of the quantitie, time, and other circumstances of dis-
proportion thereto incident: wee your said humble
subiectes nothing doubting, but that your Maiestie had
no intent, by that commandement, to infringe the an-
cient, and fundamentall right of the libertie of Parlia-
ment, in point of exact discussing of all matters concer-
ning them, and their possessions, goods, and rightes what-
soever: which yet wee cannot but conceive to be done,
in effect, by this commandement, doe with all humble
dutie make this remonstrance to your Maiestie.

First we hold it an ancient, generall, and undoubted
right of Parliament to debate freely all matters, which do
properly concerne the subiect, and his right, or state:
which freedome of debate being once foreclosed, the
essence of the libertie of Parliament, is with all dissolved.

And whereas, in this case, the subiects right on the one
side, and your Maiesties Prerogative on the other can-
not possibly be severed in debate of either, wee alledge,
that your Maiesties prerogatives of that kind concerning
directly the subiects right, and interest, wee daily hand-
led and discussed in all Courts at Westminster, and have
been ever freely debated, upon all fit occasions, but in
this, and all former Parliaments without restraint. Which
being

being forbidden, it is impossible for the subject either to know, or maintaine his right, and proprietie to his owne lands, and goods though neuer so iust, and manifest.

It may further please your Most excellent Majestie to understand that wee have no mind to impugne, but a desire to informe our selves of your highnes Prerogative in that poynt: which if euer, is now most necessarie to be knowne. And though it were to no other purpose, yet to satisfie the generalitie of your Majesties subjects, who finding themselves much grieved by these new Impositions, doe languish in much sorrow, and discomfort.

These reasons (dreade soueraigne) being the proper reasons of Parliament) doe plead for the upholding of this our ancient right and libertie. Howbeit, seeing it hath pleased your Majestie to insist upon that judgement in the Exchequer, as being direction sufficient for us, without further examination, upon great desire of leaving your Majestie unsatisfied in no one point of our intents, and proceedings, we professe touching that judgement. That we neither do nor will take upon us to reverse it: but our desire is to know the reasons whereupon the same was grounded. And the rather, for that a generall conceipt is had, that the reasons of that judgement may be extended much further, even to the utter ruine of the ancient libertie of this Kingdome, and of the subjects right of proprietie to have lands, and goods. Therefore the judgement it selfe, being the first and the last that ever was given in that kind, for ought appearing unto us, and being onely in one case, and against one man; it can bind in law no other then that person, and is also reversible by writ of error granted heretofore by act of Parliament. And neither hee, nor any other subject is debarred, by it, from trying his right in the same, or like case, in any of your Majesties Courts of record at Westminster.

Lastly

Lastly we nothing doubt, but your intended proceeding, in a full examination of the right, nature, and measure of these new impositions (if this restraint had not come betweene) should have beene so orderly, and moderately caried, and so applied to the manifold necessitie of these times, and giuen your Majestie so true a view of the state, and right of your subjects, that it would have beene much to your Majesties content, and satisfaction (which wee most desire) and remoued all cause of feares, and jealousies from the loyall hearts of your subjects, which is (as it ought to bee) our carefull indeavour. Whereas contrarywise, in that other way directed by your Majestie, wee cannot safely proceed, without conculding, for euer, the right of the subject: which without due examination thereof, we may not doe.

We therefore, your highnes loyall and dutifull commons, not swerving from the approved steps of our ancestors, most humbly and instantly beseech your gracious Majesty, that without offence to the same, we may (according to the undoubted right, and libertie of Parliament) proceed in our intended course, of a full examination of these new impositions, that so we may cheerefully pass on to your Majesties busines, from which this stop hath, by diversion, so long withheld us. And wee your Majesties most humble, faithfull, and loyall subjects, shall euer, according to our bounden dutie, pray for you Majesties long and happie raigne ouer us,

*Delivered by 20. of the lower house of
Parliament the 24. of May 1610:*

Most

Lastly we nothing doubt, but your intended proce-
 ding, in a full examination of the right, wrong and use-
 fulness of these new impositions (if this remains had not
 come between) should have been to orderly and mod-
 estly carried, and so applied to the manifold necessities of
 the times, and given your Majesty to take a view of
 the state, and right of your subjects, that it would have
 been much to your Majesties content, and satisfaction
 (which we most desire) and removed all cause of offence,
 and passions from the loyal hearts of your subjects.
 which is (as I ought to be) our earnest endeavour.
 Whereas contrariwise, in that other way directed by
 your Majesty, we cannot lately proceed, without con-
 sidering, for ever, the right of the subject: which with-
 out due examination thereof, we may not do.
 We therefore, your highness loyal and dutiful coun-
 cillors, not deriving from the approved sense of our an-
 cestors, most humbly and instantly beseech your grace-
 ous Majesty, that without offence to the same, we may
 (according to the undoubted right, and liberties of Par-
 liament) proceed in our intended course of a full exami-
 nation of these new impositions, that so we may there-
 fully pay on to your Majesties duties, from which this
 stop hath, by diversion so long withheld us. And we
 your Majesties most humble, faithful, and loyal subjects,
 shall ever, according to our bounden duty, pray for you
 Majesties long and happy reigns over us.

Delivered by so. of the lower house of
 Parliament the 24. of May 1640.

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Petitions.

Most gracious and dread soveraigne, Sith it hath pleased Almighty God, of his unspeakable goodnesse and mercie towards us, to call your Maiestie to the government of this kingdome, and hath Crowned you with supreme power, aswell in the Church, as in the common wealth, for the advancement of his glorie, and the generall benefite of all the subiects of the land. Wee doe with all humilitie present, at the feete of your excellent Maiestie our selves, and our desires full of confidence in the assurance of your religious minde, and princely disposition. That you will be graciously pleased to give life, and effect to these our petitions greatly tending (as undoubtedly wee conceive) to the glorie of God, the good of his Church, and safetie of your most royall person, wherein wee acknowledge our greatest happines to consist.

1. Whereas good and provident lawes have beene made for the maintenance of Gods true religion and safetie of your Maiesties most royall person, issue, and estate, against Iesuites, seminarie Priests, and popish recusants. And although your Maiestie by your godly, learned, and iudicious writings have declared your princely, and christian zeale in the defence of the religion established, and have very lately (to the comfort of your best affected subiects) published to both houses of Parliament your princely will and pleasure, that recusants should not be concealed, but detected and convicted: yet for that the lawes are not executed against the Priests, who are the corrupters of the people in religion, and loyaltie, and many Recusants have already compounded, and (as it is

is to be feared) more and more (except your Maiestie in your great wisdom, Prevent the same) will compound with those that beg their penalties which maketh the lawes altogether fruitlesse, or of little or none effect, and the offenders to become bold, obdurate, and uncomformable : Your Maiestie therefore would be pleased, at the humble sute of your Commons in this present Parliament assembled, in the causes so highly concerning the glorie of God, the preservation of true religion, of your Maiestie and state, to suffer your highnesse naturall clemencie to retire it selfe and to give place unto iustice, and to lay your royall command upon all your ministers of iustice both ecclesiasticall, and civill, to see the lawes made against Iesuites, seminarie Priests and Recusants (of what kind and sect soever) to be duely, & truely executed, without dread, or delay. And that your Maiestie would be pleased likewise to take into your owne hands, the penalties due for recusancie, and that the same bee not converted to the private gaine of some, to your infinite losse, the imboldning of the Papists, and decay of true religion.

2. Whereas also divers painfull, and learned Pastors, that have long travailed in the worke of the Ministerie, with good fruit and blessing of their labours, who were ever ready to performe the legall Subscription appointed by the Statute of 13. Elizab: which onely concerneth the confession of the true Christian faith and doctrine of the Sacraments, yet for not conforming in some points of ceremonies, and refusing the subscription directed by the late Canons, have been removed from their ecclesiasticall livings being their freehold, and debarred from all meanes of maintenance, to the great griefe of sundry your Maiesties well affected subiects; seeing the whol people, that want instruction, lye open to the seducements of popish and ill affect persons : Wee therefore most humbly

humbly beseech, your Maiestie would be graciously pleased, that such deprived, and silenced ministers may by licence, or permission of the reverend fathers, in their severall diocesses, instruct, and preach unto their people in such parishes, and places, where they may be employed: so as they apply themselves, in their Ministry, to wholesome doctrine, and exhortation, and live quietly, and peaceably in their callings and shall not by writing, or preaching, impugne things established by publick authority.

3. Whereas likewise through pluralitie of benefices, & toleration of non-residencie in many, who possess not the meanest livings with cure of soules, the people in diverse places want instruction, and are ignorant, and easy to be seduced, whereby the adversaries of our religion gaine great advantage, and although the pluralists, and non-residents doe frame excuse of the smalnesse of some livings, and pretende the maintenance of learning, yet wee finde by experience that they, coupling many of the greatest livings, doe leave the least helpless, and the best as ill served, and supplied with preachers, as the meanest. And where pluralists heaping up many livings into one hand, doe by that meanes keepe divers learned men from maintenance to the discouragement of Students, and the hinderance of learning and the non-residents (for seeking, or absenting themselves from their pastorall charges do leave the people, as a prey unto the Popish Seducers. It might therefore please your most excellent Maiestie for remedy of these evils in the Church to provide, that dispensations for pluralitie of benefices with cure of soules may be prohibited, and that toleration of non-residencie may be restrained. So shall true religion bee better upheld, and the people more instructed in divine, and civill duties.

4. And forasmuch as excommunication is the heaviest censure for the most grievous offences which the Church doth retayne, yet exercised upon an incredible number of the common people by the subordinate officers of the jurisdiction ecclesiasticall, most commonly for very small causes grounded upon the sole information of a base apparitour, in which case the parties, before they can be discharged, are driven to excessive expence for matters of very small moment, so that the richer breake through more haynous offences, and escape that censure, by commutation of penance to the great scandall of the Church government, in the abuse of so high a censure, the contempt of the censure it selfe; and grievance of your Majesties poore subjects.

Wherefore your Majesties dutifull commons most humbly beseech your highnes that some due, and fit reformation may be had in the premisses.

Most

Grievances.

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

Most gracious Sovereigne, your Majesties Most humble commons assembled in Parliament being moved, as well out of their duty and zeale to your Majestie; as out of the sense of just griefe, wherewith your loving subjects are generally through the whole Realme at this time possessed, because they perceive their common and ancient rights and libertie to bee much declined, and infringed in these late yeares; Doe with all duty and humilitie present these our just complaints thereof to your gracious view, most instantly craving justice therein and due redresse. And although it bee true, that many of the particulars, whercof we now complaine, were in some use in the late Queenes time, and then not much impugned, because the usage of them, beeing then more moderate gave not so great occasion of offence, and consequently not so much cause to inquire into the right and validitie of them. Yet the right beeing now more thoroughly scanned, by reason of the great mischiefs and inconveniences which the subjects have thereby sustained, wee are very confident, that your Majestie will bee so far from thinking it a point of honour, or greatnes to continue any grievance upon your people, because you found them begun in some of your Predecessors times, as you will rather hold it a worke of great glory to reforme them, since your Majestie knoweth well, that neyther continuance of time, nor errors of men, can or ought to prejudice truth of justice; and that nothing can bee more worthy of so worthy a King, nor more answerable to the great wisdom, and goodnesse which abounds in you, then to understand the griefes, and redresse the

D wrongs

wrongs of so loyall, and well deserving a people. In this confidence (dread Sovereigne) wee offer these grievances (the particulars whereof are hereafter set downe) to your gracious consideration, and wee offer them out of the greatest loyaltie, and dutie that subjects can beare to their Prince. Most humbly and instantly beseeching your Majestie, aswell for justice sake (more then which (as we conceive) in these Petitions we doe not seeke) as also for the better assurance of the state, and generall repose of your faithfull and loving subjects, and for testimonie of your gracious acceptation of their full affections, declared aswell by their joyfull receiving of your Majestie, at your happie entrance into this Kingdome, which you have beene often pleased, with favour to remember; as also by their extraordinarie contributions granted since unto you, such as have never been yeelded to any former Prince, upon the like termes, and occasions, that we may receive to these our complaints your most gracious answer: which we cannot doubt but will be such, as may be worthie of your Princely selfe, and will give satisfaction, and great comfort to all your loyall, and most dutifull loving subjects; who doe, and will ever pray for the happie preservation of your most Royall Majestie;

New



New Impositions.

THe policie and constitution of this your kingdome appropriates unto the Kings of this Realme, with the assent of the parliament, as well the soveraigne power of making lawes, as that of taxing, or imposing upon the subjects goods, or merchandizes, as may not, without their consents, be altered, or changed. This is the cause, that the people of this Kingdome, as they ever shewed themselves faithfull, and loving to their Kings, and ready to aide them in all their just occasions, with voluntarie contributions, so have they beene ever careful to preserve their owne liberties and rights, when any thing hath been done to prejudice or impeach the same. And therefore when their Princes occasioned eyther by their warres, or their over-great bounty, or by any other necessitie, have without consent of Parliament, set impositions, either within the land, or upon commodities eyther exported, or imported by the Marchants, they have, in open Parliament, complained of it, in that it was done without their consents. And thereupon never failed to obtaine a speedy, and full redresse without any claime, made by the Kings of any power, or prerogative in that point. And though the law of proprietie bee originall, and carefully preserved by the common lawes of this Realme, which are as ancient as the kingdome it selfe; yet these famous Kings, for the better contentment and assurance of their loving subjects, agreed, that this old fundamentall right should bee further declared, and established by act of Parliament. Wherein it is provided, that no such charges should ever bee laid upon the people, without their common consent,

sent, as may appeare by sundry records of former times. We therefore your Majesties most humble commons assembled in Parliament, following the example of this worthy care of our ancestors, and out of a dutie of those for whom wee serve, finding that your Majestie without advise or consent of Parliament, hath lately, in time of peace, set both greater impositions, and farre more in number, then any your noble ancestors did ever, in time of warre, have withall humility presumed to present this most just, and necessarie Petition unto your Majestie. That all impositions set without the assent of Parliament may bee quite abolished, and taken away, and that your Majestie in imitation likewise of your noble Progenitors, will bee pleased, that a law may be made during this session of Parliament, to declare that all impositions set, or to be set upon your people, their goods or merchandizes, save onely by common consent in Parliament, are, and shall bee volde. Wherein your Majestie shall not onely give your subjects good satisfaction in point of their right, but also bring exceeding joy, and comfort to them which now suffer, partly through the abating of the prise of native commodities, and partly through the rising of all forraigne, to the overthrow of Merchants and shipping, the cause of a generall death, and decay of wealth among your people, who will be thereby no lesse discouraged, then disabled to supply your Majestie, when occasion shall require it.

Com-

Commission ecclesiasticall.

11/11/1942

for any matter whatsoever parteyning to spirituall iurisdiction. Which never was nor could be ment by the makers of that law. Thirdly for that by the said statute the King, and his successors may (however your Maiestie hath bene pleased out of your gracious disposition otherwise to order) make, and direct such Commission into all the Counties, and Diocesess, yea into every parish of England, and thereby all causes may be taken from ordinarie iurisdiction of Bishops, Chancellors, and Archdeacons, and lay men solely be inabled to excommunicate, & exercise all other censures spirituall. Fourthly for that every petty offence partaining to spirituall iurisdiction, is, by colour of the said words, and letters Patents grounded thereupon, made subiect to excommunication and punishment by that strange and exorbitant power, and commission whereby the least offenders, not committing any thing of any enormous, or high nature may be drawne from the most remote places of the kingdome to London; or Yorke, which, is very grievous, and inconuenient. Fiftly for that limits touching causes subiect to this commission, being onely with these words, viz. *Such as pertaine to spirituall or ecclesiasticall iurisdiction*; it is uery hard to know, what matters, or offences are included in that number. And the rather because it is unknowne, what ancient canons, or lawes spirituall are in force, and what not: from whence ariseth great incertaintie, and occasion of contention.

And whereas upon the same statute a commission ecclesiasticall is made; Therein is grievance apprehended thus. First for that thereby the same men have both spirituall and temporall iurisdiction, and may both force the party by oath to accuse himselfe of an offence, and also inquire thereof by a iurie, and lastly may inflict for the same offence, at the same time, and by one and the same sentence, both a spirituall and temporall punishment.

Secondly

Secondly whereas, upon sentences of deprivation, or other spirituall censures given by force of ordinarie iurisdiction, an appeale lyeth for the partie griued; that is here excluded by expresse words of the Commission. Also here is to be a tryall by iury, yet no remedy by traverse, nor attaint. Neither can a man have any writ of error, though a Iudgement or sentence be given against him, amounting to the taking away of all his goods and imprisoning him during life, yea to the adiudging him in the case of Praemunire, whereby his lands are forfeited, and he out of the protection of the lawe. Thirdly, that whereas penial lawes, and offences against the same cannot be determined in other courts, or by other persons, then by those trusted by Parliament with the execution thereof, yet the execution of many such statutes (diverse whereof were made since 1. Eliza.) are commended and committed to these Commissioners ecclesiasticall, who are either to inflict the punishment contained in the statutes being premunire, and of other high nature, and so to inforce a man upon his owne oath to accuse & expose himselfe to these punishments, or els to inflict other temporall punishments at their pleasure. And yet besides, and after that done, the partie shall be subiect in the Courtes mentioned in the Acts, to punishments by the same acts appointed and inflicted, which weethinke very unreasonable. Fourthly, that the commission giveth authority to inforce men called into question to enter into recognisance not only for appearance from time, to time, but also for performance of whatsoever shall be, by the commissioners ordered, And also that it giveth power to enioyne parties defendand, or accused, to pay such fees to ministers of the court, as by the commissioners shall be thought fit.

And touching the execution of the commission, it is found grievous these wayes among other. First for that lay men are by the Commissioners punished for speaking
(other-

(otherwise then in iudiciall places, and coturses) of the
 symonie and other misdemeanours of spirituall men,
 though the thing spoken be true, and the speach tending
 to the inducing of some condigne punishment. Second-
 ly in that these commissioners usually appoint and allot
 to women discontented at, and unwilling to live with
 their husbands such portions, and allowances for present
 maintenance, as to them shall seeme fit: to the great in-
 couragement of wives to bee disobedient, and contemp-
 tuous against their husbands. Thirdly, in that their pur-
 suivants, or other ministers imployed in the apprehension
 of suspected offenders in any things spirituall, and in the
 searching for any supposed scandalous books, use to
 breake open mens houses, closets, and desks rifling all
 cormers, and secret custodies, as in case of high treason,
 or suspicion thereof. All which premisses among oter
 things considered, your Majesties most loyall, and du-
 tiffull commons in all humbleness beseech your Majestie
 that for the easing of them, aswell from the present grie-
 vance, as from the feare, and possibilitie of greater in-
 tymes future; your highnesse would vouchsafe your roy-
 all assent, and allowance to, and for the ratifying of the
 said Statute, and the reducing thereof, and consequently
 of the said commission to reasonable, and convenient li-
 mits, by some act to be passed in this present session of
 Parliament.

Pro-



Proclamations.

Amongst many other points of happinesse, and freedom which your Majesties subjects of this Kingdome have enjoyed under your royall Progenitors, Kings and Queenes of this Realme, there is none which they have accounted more deare, and pretious then this, to be guided, and governed by the certaine rule of the law (which giveth both to the head, and members, that which of right belongeth unto them) and not by any uncertaine or arbitrary forme of government. Which as it hath proceeded from the originall good constitution, and temperature of this estate: so hath it bene the principall meanes of upholding the same in such sort, as that their Kings have bene just, beloved, happie and glorious, and the Kingdome it selfe peaceable, flourishing and durable so many ages. And the effect, as well of the contentment that the subjects of this Kingdome have taken in this forme of government, as also of the love, respect, and dutie which they have, by reason of the same, rendred unto their Princes, may appeare in this; That they have, as occasion hath required, yeilded more extraordinarie and voluntary contributions to assist their Kings, then the subjects of any other knowne Kingdome whatsoever. Out of this root hath growne the indubitable right of the people of this Kingdome: not to be made subject to any punishment, that shall extend to their lives, lands, bodies, or goods, other then such, as are ordained by the common lawes of this land, or the Statutes made by their common consent in Parliament. Neverthelesse it is apparent both that Proclamations have bene, of late years, much more frequent, then heretofore, and that they are

extended, not onely to the libertie, but also to the goods, inheritances, and livelihood of men, some of them tending to alter some points of the lawe, and make a new. Other some made, shortly after a session of Parliament, for matter directly rejected in the same session; other appointing punishments to be inflicted before lawfull triall, and conviction; Some containing penalties in forme of penall statutes: Some referring the punishment of offenders to the courts of arbitrary discretion; which have laid heaue and grievous censures upon the delinquents: Some, as the Proclamation for Starch, accompanied with Letters commanding inquirie to bee made against the transgressors, at the quarter sessions: and some vouching former Proclamations to countenance, and warrant the later, as by a catalogue here under written more particularly appeareth. By reason whereof there is a generall feare conceived, & spread amongst your Majesties people, that Proclamations will, by degrees, grow up, and increase to the strength, and nature of lawes. Whereby not onely that ancient happinesse, freedome will be much blemished (if not quite taken away) which their ancestors have so long injoyed: but the same may also (in proces of time) bring a new forme of arbitrary government upon the Realme. And this their feare is the more increased by occasion aswell of certeyne bookes lately published, which ascribe a greater power to Proclamations then heretofore hath bene conceived to belong unto them; as also of the care taken to reduce all the Proclamations made since your Majesties raigue, into one volume; and to print them in such forme as Acts of Parliament formerly have bene, and still are used to bee: which seemeth to imply a purpose to give them more reputation and more establishment, then heretofore they have had. We therefore your Majesties humble subjects the Commons in this Parliament assembled, taking these matters into our considerations, and weighing how much it doth

con-

concerne your Majestie, both in honour and safety, that such impressions should not be suffered to settle in your subjects mindes, have thought it to appertain to our duties, as well towards your Majestie; and to those that have trusted, and sent us to this service, to present unto your Majesties view these feares, and griefes of your people, and to become humble suiters unto your Majestie, that henceforth no fine, or forfeiture of goods, or other pecuniarie, or corporall punishment may bee inflicted upon your subjects (other than restraint of liberty, which wee also humbly beseech may be, but upon urgent necessity, and to continue but till other order may bee taken by course of law) unless they shall offend against some lawe or statute of this Realme in force at the time of their offence committed. And for the greater assurance, and comfort of your people; That it will please your Majestie to declare your royall pleasure to that purpose, either by some law to be made in this session of Parliament, or by some such other course (whereof your people may take knowledge) as to your Princely wisdom shall seeme most convenient.

*Proclamations importing alterations
of some points of the Law, and
making new.*

THe 11. of January 1 Jac. f. 57. forbiddeth choosing of Knights, and Burgeses bankrupts, or outlawed, and commandeth choyce of such, as are not onely taxed to subsidies, but also have ordinarily paid, and satisfied the same. f. 59. If returnes be made contrary to the Pro-

clamation, they are to be rejected, as unlawfull, and insufficient. f. 60.

25. *August 5. Jac. f. 151.* That the Proclamation shall be a warrant to any officer, or subject to seise Starch, and to dispose, or destroy any stuffe, &c. and restraineth all men not licenced to make starch. f. 154.

2. A Proclamation made shortly after Parliament for matter directly rejected the precedent session.

1. *March 2. Jac. f. 102.* A Proclamation for building with bricke after a bill to that end rejected.

3. Proclamations touching the freehold, and livelihood of men.

16. *September 1. Ja. f. 41.* Raising and pulling downe howses authorized, and prohibition to build them againe at any time. f. 42. 12. *Ott. 5. Ia. f. 160.* forbidding building and taking away the materials; and appointing the owners land to be let by other men, at what price they please. f. 161.

4. Proclamations referring punishment to be done by Justices of Peace, Majors, Bailives, Constables, and other Officers; or seisure by persons who have no authoritie to require, heare, and determine of those offences. So it is to be inflicted before lawfull triall and conviction.

8. *Ian. 2. Ia. f. 72.* A Proclamation for folding wools. 23. *Aug. 5. Ia. f. 151.* seisure of Starch, &c. f. 154.

5. Proclamations penned with penalties in forme of penall Statutes.

4. *No. 1. Ia. f. Paine of confiscation of goods, f. 56.*

18. *Ian. 2. Ja. f. 72.* Ten dayes imprisonment and standing in the Pillory, f. 72. Justices of peace to forfeit 20.

pounds

pounds, if they see not the Proclamation of foulding wooles executed, f. 75.

23. *Aug.* 5. *Ia.* f. 151. forfeiture of one moitie of starch &c. seised &c. 154.

6 Punishment of offenders in courts of arbitrary discretion, as starre chamber.

1. *Mar.* 2. *Ia.* f. 102. Proclamation for building. f. 103. 12. *Oct.* 5. *Ia.* 159. Proclamation for building, f. 160. 5. *Iuly.* 6. *Ia.* f. 177. Procl. for starch, f. 180. 25. *Iuly* 6. *Ia.* f. 180. Procl. for building, f. 181.

7. Proclam. former become presidents, and vouched in latter Proclam.

18. *June* 2. *Ia.* f. 75. avoucheth 5. *E.* 6. and 4. *Eliz.* f. 73. 25. *Iuly* 6. *Ia.* f. 180. mentioneth former proclam. against buildings, and explaineth, and qualifieth them. f. 181.

Stay of Writts of prohibition, &c.

YOUR Maiesties commons in this session of Parliament assembled, doe cheerefully acknowledge the spring and fountaine of the publique justice of this state to bee originally in your Maiestie, from whom the benefit thereof is conveyed, and derived into every member of this politique body by your Highnes writts. Amongst which none are more honourable for the support of the common justice of the realm, then the writts of *prohibition*, *habeas corpus*, & *de homine replegando*: which writts have beene ever held, and found to be a chiefe meanes of reliefe unto the

the poore distressed, and oppressed subjects of this king-
dome, and can be no inconvenience at all. Seing they
are no way conclusive against any man, and doe draw no
benefit to the procurers, but rather a fruitlesse charge, if
they be obtained vpon any unjust ground, or pretence.
In the free granting of, and proceeding upon some of
which writts, especially that of prohibition; there hath
been of late observed to bee some obstruction, by reason,
that upon the complaints, and importunitie of some
who desire the support of inferiour courts against the
principall courts of the common law (wherewith your
Maiestie hath been greatly troubled) you have taken in-
to your royall consideration the severall extents
of the iurisdiction of the said severall courts. Since
which time the said writts have been more sparingly
granted, and with stricter cautions then anciently hath
been accustomed. It is therefore most humbly desired,
that it may please your Maiestie (whose glory is never
more conspicuous, then when the poorest of the com-
monalty are blessed with influence of the ancient beames
of iustice) to require your judges, in the courts of West-
minster, to grant the said writts, in cases wherein such
writts doe lye, and by law are grantable: And in such
sort, as that such persons, whose bodies being either com-
mitted to Prison, or their causes like to receive great pre-
judice by proceedings against them, in times of vacation
may not bee debarred nor deferred from having the spee-
dy reliefe and benefit of those writts, more then in for-
mer times.

4. *Shires.*

FORASMUCH as the exercise of authoritie over the countie of *Glocester*, *Hereford*, *Wigorne*, and *Salop*, by the president, and counsell of *Wales* by way of instructions, upon pretext of a statute made in the 34. yeare of the raigne of King *Henry* the 8. is conceived not to bee warranted by that or any other law of this Realme of *England*. And for that in the second session of this present Parliament, there did a bill passe the House of Commons, whereby it was declared, that the true intent and meaning of that before mentioned Statute, was not thereby to subject these countries to that kinde of government by instructions. And yet notwithstanding the inhabitants of those Counties are since utterly discouraged, and in effect, debarred from triall of the right of that kind of jurisdiction over those countries, by the ordinary course of the common lawes of this land; by reason of *Prohibitions*, which were heretofore frequently granted (upon suggestion, that those countries are not part of *Wales* or of the *Marches* of the same (which is the very point in question) are now become very hard to be obtained, except in cases, where those of that counsell doe exceede the instructions set downe to them by your Majestie. As also for that, in cases, where actions have beene brought at the common law, whereby that question might have come to dicision, the plaintifes have beene stopped, sometimes by injunctions out of your Majesties court of Chancery, from their proceedings sometime before, sometime after indgements, and sometime also by imprisonment. The precedent of which proceedings doth concerne all your Majesties loyall and dutifull subjects of this kingdome,

done, aswell in respect of the stopping of the free course of Iustice : as also, by reason that if that kind of iurisdiction were at first extended over those 4. counties, and be now still continued without warrant of law : then consequence of this example may, in future times, give countenance to the erecting of like iurisdctions in other places of this Realme. And for asmuch as your Maiestie was pleased to command all the Iudges to consider of this question, & that they therupon bestowed very many dayes in hearing the cause argued by learned counsaile on both sides. And in viewing and considering of great numbers of records produced before them, concerning this cause : whereby, they have (no doubt) thoroughly informed themselves of the right.

It is therefore the most humble petition of the commons in this present Parliament assembled, that your most excellent Maiestie will be pleased to command, that the Iudges may deliver their opinion upon that so exact, and deliberate hearing, which was had before them, concerning the right of the foresaid iurisdiction over those 4. Counties by force of that statute. And that the opinion which they shall deliver therein, may be in such sort published, as that all your Maiesties subiects whome it may concerne may have meanes to take knowledge thereof. And that your Maiestie will vouchsafe to declare by your most princely pleasure, that any of your Maiesties subiects who may have occasion thereof may try his, or their right in that point by due, & ordinarie course of the common lawe, either by suing out of prohibitions, or any other your Maiesties writs without restraint. And that if the said iurisdiction over those 4. Counties shall appeare to your Maiestie, by the opinion of the Iudges or otherwise, not to be warranted by law, that then your Majestie bee pleased out of your most princely and gracious favour towards all your loyall, and dutiful subiects,

to order the ceasing of the said jurisdiction over those countries, to the great comfort of the inhabitants of those countries, and the rest of your Majesties subjects of all the kingdome.

New Drapery.

Complaint was made, in all humble manner, the second session of this present Parliament, of many disorders, outrages, and oppressions committed upon occasion of letters patents granted to the Duke of *Lenox*, for the searching, and sealing of stufes, and manufactures, called by the name of *New Drapery*: which patent we held in all, or the most parts of it, to bee questionable, and in many apparently unlawfull: and the execution thereof wee found stretched by the farmers, and deputies beyond the extent of the said letters patents, as appeares in the particulars set downe in the said grievance. To which it pleased your Majestie to give this gracious answer, that the validitie of the said patent should be left to be judged by the law. And whensoever any abuse arising in the execution thereof should appeare, it should be severely punished. Which was, for that time, to our good satisfaction: yet finding, by divers complaints made now in Parliament, that not onely the said Letters Patents are still in force, and the validitie of them undecided by judgement: but disorders in the execution of them are so farre off from being reformed, that they multiply every day to the grievance of your Majesties subjects. And those of the poorer sort, who exercising these manufactures are subject to much oppression, to the great hindrance of some, and utter undoing of many, as hath appeared in the particularities of the complaints presented unto us. Our humble desire is, that your Ma-

jesty will be pleased, according to your former resolution, to give order, that this cause, which hath thus long hung in suspence, be speedily brought to judgement: and that before all the Iudges, because it concernes all the subjects of the Land. And, in the mean time, that the execution of the said Letters patents, so far forth as they concerne the said new Draperies, may be suspended till judgement be given: whereby your subjects, who doe in all humilitie present this grievance unto your Majesty, may be relieved, and have no occasion to reiterate their complaints.

License of Wines.

V Hereas by ancient and late Statutes, it hath been enacted, that Wines should be retayled at such low rates and prices, as for these fifty yeares last past they could not be afforded. And for redresse thereof, it was ordeined by a Statute, in the fift yeare of the late *Queene Elizabeth*, that (those former Lawes notwithstanding) Wines might be sold at such prices, as by Proclamation from time to time to be made by consent of divers great officers, should be published and set downe: which Proclamation; neverthelesse, the late Queen, and your most excellent Majestie, have been drawn to forbear, upon the earnest sute of certein persons, who therein only intended their private gaine: By reason whereof, both great summs of money in fines, rents, and annuall payments haue been gotten and raised unto the said persons and their assignes, and great dammage and prejudice hath likewise fallen and lighted upon your people, not only by inhancing the prices of Wines, licencing over many Tavernes, and appointing of unmeet persons, in unfit places, to keep the same: But also by reason that corrupt, mingled, evill, and unwhole-

wholesome Wines have been uttered, and sold, to the great hurt of the health of your Highnesse people ; One man sometimes ingrossing all the Licences designed for that place. Whereupon complaint being made to your Majesty, amongst other grievances of your people, in the second session of this present Parliament, your Highnesse was pleased to answer, that your grants in that behalfe were no other, than such as were warrantable by the law. Whereas the grievance was the greater, for that all lawes concerning the sale of Wines, being intended, and conceived to be repealed, there were neverthelesse, by the oversight of them which were trusted in that businesse, casually omitted, and left unrepealed certaine absolute lawes, impossible to be observed : as namely, one made in the time of King *Edward* the first, commanding Wines to be sold at twelve pence the sexterne, and one other made in the 28. of King *Henry* the eight, prohibiting all persons, under penalty, to sell any French wines above eight pence the gallon, and other Wines, as Sacks, and sweet Wines above twelve pence the gallon : and one branch of a Statute made in the seventh yeare of King *Edward* the sixt, prohibiting men to sell any Wines by retaile in their houses. Whereupon your Majesty hath been induced and drawne to ground new patents of dispensation, and to grant the benefit thereof unto the Lord Admirall : whereby the like discommodities and inconveniences have since insued unto the Common-wealth, as formerly did arise and grow upon the other repealed lawes, whereof, in the former petitions of your subjects, exhibited unto your Majesty in the said second session, your Highnesse never had any direct, and cleare information. May it therefore please your most excellent Majesty at the humble request of your Commons (who have taken into consideration the great charges, and expences, which the said Lord Admirall hath been at, in your Majesties service, and have considered likewise the present licences, and

grants for valuable consideration unto many hundred of your Highnesse subjects, which without great losse to the said grantees, cannot be so suddenly made voide) our of your Princely wisdom and goodnesse, wherein you have professed not to extend, and straine your prerogative royall against the publique good of your people, for the particular gain of any private persons, To vouchsafe, that from hence forwards, there may no more grants, of that nature, be made unto any of your subjects whomsoever. But that the said Statute of 5. *Elizabeth*, for the apprising of Wines, to be published by Proclamation, as time and occasion shall require, may be put in execution. And that your Majesty will likewise vouchsafe to grant your royall assent to a Bill of repeale of the said obsolete statutes, and all other, whereupon any such *Non obstantes*, and dispensations might be grounded upon. In which statute of repeale, *proviso* shall be made for the indemnitie of all such, as under your Majesties great seale have already procured Licence for such sale of Wines.

Alehouses.

VHereas, by the Lawes of this your Majesties Realme of England, no taxes, ayds, or impositions of any kinde whatsoever, ought, or can be laid, and imposed upon your people, or upon any of their goods, or commodities, but onely by authoritie and consent of Parliament. Which being undoubtedly the ancient, and fundamentall law of the Land, is yet, for more abundant clearnesse expressly declared in sundry acts of Parliament, made and enacted in the time of sundry your Majesties Progenitors, the noblest, and most prudent Kings of this Realme. Your commons with just griefe doe com-
plaine

plaine unto your Majesty, of the late tax, and imposition laid, and imposed yearely upon such, as are allowed to keepe victualing houses, or sell ale, and beere by retaile. Which imposition not being taxed by assent of Parliament, but commanded, and directed onely by letters and instructions, your commons are perswaded that the same proceeded rather upon misinformation, then by the direction, and judgment of your owne most noble and royal heart. Wherefore your said commons knowing the griefe of your people in this behalfe, doe (according to their duties) in all humilitie informe and signifie unto your Majestie: first, that the said taxation being singular, and without example, is in it selfe a President of dangerous consequence, and (as your people feare) may easily (in time) bee extended further; as to badgers of corne, makers of malt, drovers of cattell, & such like, who in such sort are to bee licenced by Justices of peace, as those persons are, upon whom, at this time, this present charge and taxe is laide.

Secondly such houses, being often times (at the best) the harbours of idlenesse, drunkenesse, whoredome, and all maner of felonies, the licences are now (the honester sort, in most places, refusing to undergoe the new charge) rented and taken by the looser, and baser sort of people, who have no conscience how they gaine: By reason whereof all manner of vice, and evill behaviour is likely every day to encrease: neither can Justices of peace conveniently prevent the same: for that the persons licenced under the late contribution, affirme, with clamour, that they have a toleration for a yeare, and that such persons are not friends unto the Crowne, that seeke to suppress them, and thereby to diminish your highnesse revenues. Thirdly many Justices of Peace, (being sworne to execute their office,) which for this particular they conceive to be, that alhouse keepers formerly licensed, are not to bee suppressed without just, and reasonable cause,

cause, cannot bee satisfied touching their said oath, but are much distracted, and perplexed what to doe (the late instructions notwithstanding) against such persons, as otherwise being not knowne to be of evill behaviour, only refuse to pay this late taxed & imposed summe of money. In consideration whereof, your humble commons most instantly beseech your most excellent Majestie, that the former letters, and instructions may be countermanded, or stayed, and all further directions, and proceedings in that kinde forborne.



Seacoale.

AMong many resemblances, which are observed to be betweene naturall and politique bodies, there is none more apt, and naturall then this; That the diseases of both doe not, at one instant, commonly seise upon all parts: but beginning in some one part, doe, by tract of time, and by degrees, get possession of the whole, unlesse by applying of wholsome and proper remedies, in due time, they be prevented. Which as it is in many things very visible, so it is in nothing more apparent, then in this matter of impositions: which beginning at the first either with forraigne commodities brought in, or such of our owne, as were transported, is now extended to those commodities, which growing in this Kingdome, are not transported, but uttered to the subjects of the same: for prooffe whereof, wee doe, with all humilitie present unto your Majesties view the late imposition of 12. pence the Chaldre of Seacole rising in Blith and Sunderland, not by vertue of any contract, or grant (as in the coales of New Castle) but under a meere pretext of your Majesties most royall prerogative: which imposition is not
only

onely grievous for the present (especially to those of the poorer sort, the price of whose onely, and most necessary Jewell is thereby, to their very great griefe inhaunced) but dangerous also for the future; considering that the reason of this president may be extended to all the commodities of this kingdome. May it therefore please your most Excellent Majestie, who is the great, and soveraigne phyfition of this state, to apply such a remedie as this disease may be presently cured, and all diseases for time to come, of like nature, prevented.

FIN IS.
